



**U.S. Department of Justice**

Executive Office for Immigration Review

*Office of the General Counsel*

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5107 Leesburg Pike, Suite 2150  
Falls Church, Virginia 22041

July 24, 2019

**CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Matthew Hoppock  
MuckRock News DEPT MR 67032  
411A Highland Ave.  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Re: FOIA 2019-14540

Mr. Hoppock:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) dated January 6, 2019 requesting:

- (a) The records related to the process of hiring Immigration Judge Shelly Schools;  
and
- (b) The e-mail messages to or from any EOIR employee from January 1, 2015 and  
January 8, 2018 mentioning the word "Shelly Schools"

As the person identified in your request is currently not an employee of EOIR, the agency can neither confirm nor deny the existence of such records pursuant to Exemption 6 of the FOIA. 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). Even to acknowledge the existence of such records would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV 2010). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist. *See* <http://www.justice.gov/oip/foiapist/2012foiapist9.html>.

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at the telephone number 703-605-1297 for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact

information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you are not satisfied with my response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site <https://www.foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Sincerely,

*Joseph Schaaf*

J.R. Schaaf  
Chief Counsel for Administrative Law